

NewsRelease

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For Release

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NASA HONORED BY SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

NASA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization was presented with the prestigious Frances Perkins Vanguard Award at a luncheon hosted by the U.S. Small Business Administration yesterday afternoon. The award was presented to NASA for excelling in its utilization of women-owned small businesses.

The Frances Perkins Vanguard Award honors government agencies, government officials and corporations in the private sector that use women-owned small businesses as prime contractors, subcontractors and suppliers.

"This was a well-deserved award," said Ralph Thomas, NASA's Assistant Administrator for the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization. "Our entire agency has worked hard to involve outstanding women-owned businesses in every facet of NASA's mission -- the proof is in the pudding," he added.

During FY 2004, NASA awarded a total of \$847 million to women owned small businesses; \$323 million in prime contracting and \$524 million in subcontracting, setting agency records in both categories. This amount is nearly a \$200 million increase over dollars awarded to women-owned firms in FY 2003. It also represents NASA's highest total dollars ever awarded to women owned small businesses.

For information about NASA's Small Business Office on the Internet, visit:

<http://www.osdbu.nasa.gov>

For information about NASA and agency programs on the Internet, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov>

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